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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT Thursday, July 7, 1938.

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "WITH BOARDS, BRAINS, AND BRAWN." (Built-in furnishings and conveniences.) Information from Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Publications available, Farmers' Bulletin 1738-F, Farmhouse Plans, and Farmers' Bulletin 1749-F, Modernizing Farmhouses.

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"Necessity is the mother of invention," according to the old proverb, which is just as true today as it was when pioneers challenged our frontiers and hewed logs to build homes with.

Some of my listeners who are planning to modernize their homes or build new ones without spending much money, might be considerably encouraged if they would check over the possible "built-ins" they could have. By a built-in I mean any furnishing or convenience constructed at the time the house is going up, and used, either temporarily or permanently in place of some piece of furniture which the budget cannot supply at the moment. Later on you may replace these built-ins and use the materials for something else. At present they can add surprisingly to comfort and convenience.

The practical men in the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering of the U. S. Department of Agriculture say that you can use built-ins in any room in the house. You will find many suggestions for so doing in two publications I have mentioned several times-Farmers' Bulletins 1738-F and 1749-F, entitled respectively, Farmhouse Plans, and Modernizing Farmhouses. These are free bulletins.

Here are some of the specific recommendations for built-ins. First, in the bed-rooms. Dressing tables are easy.-- They are just broad shelves braced against the wall at a suitable height, covered with a gathered or pleated flounce.--Even the frame of the bed may be home-built, like Thomas Jefferson's at Monticello. The mattress usually rests on heavy ropes, laced across. Covered wagon pioneers made many a bed of this kind, because they carried so little furniture with them. Among the farmhouse plans there is one with bunks built in so as to give each boy in the family a small place of his own, or to provide a place for hired helpers to sleep.

Another plan for a farmhouse embodies a good space-saving idea for a small bed-room with a dormer window. A window seat is built under the dormer, and on each side, three drawers are set into the wall under the eaves. A window seat is fine because it provides both storage space and a place to sit. For a school boy or school girl this room might be equipped with a wide hinged shelf with pull-out legs to serve as a desk.

Sometimes additional closets are needed. Inside they may have rods for hangers, shelves or racks for shoes, sliding trays for clothing, compartments for hats, shoe shining outfits, and even a dressing-table with a mirror. All

of these closet conveniences can be built into the closet by the handy man of the house.

In the kitchen he can often add a counter or working surface that does instead of a table; a sliding or drop shelf; a cupboard or cabinet for special needs,- to store bulky equipment out of the way. In such a closet one could keep electric utensils, serving trays, large platters, and vases. A good home carpenter can design a cabinet with different sized spaces to hold all these different pieces.

Other kitchen built-ins include such items as a rack for saucepan lids, within arm's reach of the stove. A knife rack saves blade edges and prevents cut fingers. Drainboards make dishwashing easier. A two-way or pass closet between the kitchen and dining-room can sometimes be made by cutting the back wall of an ordinary closet. The shelves run right through, ending alongside the sink or counter on the kitchen table. Then when dishes are washed they are put away without taking any extra steps. When it's time to set the table for the next meal, you take them out on the dining-room side.

For the kitchen where laundry work is done, a built-in ironing board with a hinged support saves space and adds convenience.

If the cook stove is wood-burning, an excellent kitchen built-in is a wood-box that can be filled from outside and have its contents reached from inside.

Building in a breakfast nook requires only the construction of a table surface and two long benches to sit on, with lockers beneath them. The table may rest on a sawbuck type of base and be made to tilt; it may be very simply constructed with four straight legs, or it may be hinged to the wall at one end and fold up.

Built-in dish closets and corner cupboards are decorative and useful in the dining-room. They afford the more expert home carpenter an opportunity to show his artistic ability as a cabinet-maker. Perhaps he will like to try his hand at a built-in sideboard or dresser of the Welsh type, with narrow shelves for displaying some of the old family dishes or pewterware.

The chief built-in for the living-room is of course a set of bookshelves. Such shelves need not necessarily be for books. They may be curtained and take care of magazines, papers, sheet music, records, games, or toys. The folding desk idea might be adopted in a small living-room. Another suggestion is a pair of fireside benches or "settles". Most built-ins, you notice, provide storage space as well as sitting or working surface.

Be sure to note the numbers of the bulletins I mentioned- 1738-F, and 1749-F. They contain other hints on using boards, brains, and brawn where cash is limited.

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